



HOWARD COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning

www.howardcountymd.gov
410-313-2350
FAX 410-313-3042
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February 3, 2022

Re: Historic Cemetery Outreach

Dear Property Owner:

Hello! This letter is meant to provide information and resources concerning financial incentives, clean-ups and other matters related to historic cemeteries. If you are not the appropriate contact or owner of a historic cemetery, please contact Lauren McDonald, at 410-313-6571 or lmcdonald@howardcountymd.gov so our files can be updated so you do not continue to receive information on this matter. If you do work with, represent, or own one of the 206 historic cemeteries located in Howard County, please read on. The Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) and the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board (CPAB), through the efforts of many volunteers such as the Howard County Genealogical Society, began a County-wide cemetery survey in 2014 to document the current conditions of our historic cemeteries. From that effort, a \$5,000 County grant was created to support the restoration of our County's historic cemeteries in 2016 and 2018 and now again in 2022.

Howard County 2022 Grant: If there is a repair or a project you have been meaning to work on, now is the time to think through the scope of work and apply for this grant. The application deadline is Thursday, March 3, 2022 and the funds will be designated by Thursday, March 17, 2022. The cemetery grant application can also be found at the Howard County website under Historic Preservation: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Planning-and-Zoning/Conservation-and-Preservation/Historic>. For your convenience, a blank application is enclosed. Please follow the instructions on the grant application. This Howard County grant is currently a one-time opportunity for any projects that support the historic cemeteries outreach, repair, protection, or landscape scope.

Additional Resources:

Maryland Cemeteries Grant: The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites is a State-wide nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving historic Maryland cemeteries. The Trader Foundation for Maryland Burial Sites is providing grants up to \$2,000 to "rejuvenate endangered historic Maryland cemeteries." The grant application deadlines are July 1 and January 1 of each year. Enclosed is a copy of the application, which can also be found on the Coalition's new website: <http://cpmbs.org/> or <http://cpmbs.org/trader-foundation/>

Tax Credits: Currently there is a 25% property tax credit for restoration work that is pre-approved by the Historic Preservation Commission for a historic cemetery. Section 20.112 of the County Code say eligible cemetery restoration work may include repair or maintenance of existing gravestones, walls, fencing or other site features [including historic outbuildings] of an eligible property that is a historic cemetery listed on the Inventory under section 16.1303 of the County Code. New construction and landscaping are not included. This credit is also for the rehabilitation of any historic home on the Historic Sites Inventory. I can answer any questions you have regarding tax credits. The Historic Property Tax Credits application can be found under the Historic Preservation Commission: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/planning-zoning/hpc-applications>.

If you would like more information about future cemetery clean-ups, are interested in helping with the continuation of the cemetery surveys, or if you are the owner of a cemetery and don't believe you received information on the surveys, please contact me at 410-313-4341 or email bburgess@howardcountymd.gov. Thank you for reading this letter to share the efforts and opportunities that Howard County is making towards the preservation of historic cemeteries. On behalf of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board, we hope you will submit a project for this cemetery grant.

Sincerely,

Beth Burgess
Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board, Executive Secretary
Resource Conservation Division, Chief
Department of Planning and Zoning